



Student News, Student Views



December 19, 2005

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This is an electronic
newsletter that will help
keep you informed of
student information. It is
distributed monthly.

Student News

Happy Holidays from the Education Program Office (EPO)!

For those students that are returning to work between semesters, those students that are with us on a year-round basis, as well as, to those of you that have recently hired on, we would like to say Happy Holidays! This edition of Student News, Student Views gives us an opportunity to update you on what is new from our office, from the Students' Association, the Student Programs Advisory Committee, as well as, an interesting article from one of your fellow students who attended the 55th Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates this past summer. Read the article to find out how you might have the opportunity to be considered for the next meeting in June 2006. We want to make sure you are in the loop with the latest and greatest information.

Equally important we want to remind you of your great value to this institution. This past fiscal year, 22.9% of the LANL Technical hires came from our Undergraduate and Graduate Student Programs. Not only do you continue to provide refreshing ideas, and create a lively atmosphere, you also contribute meaningfully to the mission of this laboratory. Thank you. A special thanks to Natalie Trujillo, our intern in EPO who has completed her first semester at New Mexico State and has prepared this newsletter for you.

Enjoy the holiday break and please contact me, Carole Rutten (crutten@lanl.gov) or Brenda Montoya (bmontoya@lanl.gov) if we can help with anything!

Have fun and be safe,
Carole



Annual Student Transcript and Salary Review Process

(Returning and Year-Round Students)

The annual student transcript and salary review process will take place between March and May of 2006.

Students' official transcripts, including fall grades and spring enrollment, are due to STB-Education Program Office by February 17, 2005. Official transcripts should be sent to:

Brenda Montoya
Los Alamos National Laboratory
MS M709
P.O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted. Students submitting a late transcript are not eligible for retroactive salary increases. Transcripts should only be sent to the address above. Sending them elsewhere could cause a delay in a student's raise or result in a lost transcript. Students should verify that transcripts have been received by the Education Program Office by emailing Brenda Montoya at bmontoya@lanl.gov.

Clarifying Information

1. High school cooperative, Post-Baccalaureate, and Post Master's students are not required to submit a transcript.
2. **Official** transcripts are required and must include the student's name, institution name, grade point average (semester and cumulative) and declared major.
3. Although students are required to take a minimum of 9 (undergraduate) or 6 (graduate) credit hours or equivalent each semester during the academic year, taking the minimum required may prevent students from receiving an annual raise. Raises are based on the number of credit hours completed towards a student's degree.
4. Salary increases will be effective in May based on a student's return date and compliance with the transcript submission deadline.
5. Students may not be eligible to participate in the Laboratory's 9/80 program if transcripts are not received.
6. Students who fail to meet these requirements will not receive a pay increase and will no longer be able to participate in the Laboratory's Student Internship Programs.

The transcript review process enables the Education Program Office to monitor a student's eligibility and ensure academic progression. Students' appointment dates will be extended providing eligibility requirements have been met and academic progression is shown.

Reminders

1. Undergraduate students are required to maintain a minimum of 9 credit hours (or equivalent) each semester to remain eligible to participate in the Laboratory's Student Internship Program.
2. Graduate students are required to maintain a minimum of 6 credit hours (or equivalent) each semester to remain eligible to participate in the Laboratory's Student Internship Program. Graduate students who have completed their coursework are eligible to work full-time during the academic year providing they submit proof of enrollment showing thesis/dissertation course work.
3. Exceptions to the work time or credit hour requirements will be addressed on an individual basis by the Education Program Staff and the Student Programs Advisory Committee. The exception process can be located at: <http://int.lanl.gov/education/spac/exc.shtml>
4. Students participating in the Electro-Mechanical Technology Program, Materials Science Technician Program, Machinist Apprenticeship Program, CFO and SUP MBA program, Post Baccalaureate, Post Master's Degree programs and GRA students working on a thesis or dissertation are excluded from the 30 hour per week work restriction.
5. Students are eligible to work 40 hours during the holiday and spring break, with management approval.
6. Summer is not considered part of the academic year, so there are no requirements for taking classes and students may work full-time.
7. Questions about tuition reimbursement should be directed to Dixie Paternoster at 7-0386 or Dixie@lanl.gov.

Students who are enrolled in Certificate Programs should contact Brenda Montoya at bmontoya@lanl.gov

Please contact Brenda Montoya at 667-4866, bmontoya@lanl.gov or Carole Rутten at 665-5194, crutten@lanl.gov if you have any questions about this or any other student program issue.

NEW SA OFFICERS

Raea Hicks, Vice-Chair



Is a post-bachelors student in MST-CINT and plans on going to graduate school next fall in environmental science. Currently she is developing surfactant-templated nanostructured silica slides as a new mass spectrometry template. Getting used to the cold weather has been a challenge for this Florida transplant; where she went to college and in her hometown, the only white stuff on the ground was the sand at the beach. However, the food, hiking, and fascinating culture of Northern New Mexico more than fill that void.



Calvin Spellmon, Technical Assistant and Webmaster

Is a post-bachelors student from Houston, Texas working in C-INC with aspirations of going to medical school next fall or in the near future. He is a recent graduate of Dillard University in New Orleans, LA where he was senior class president, captain of the men's varsity basketball team, and vice president of Tri-Beta National Honor Society. As a past time here in Los Alamos, Calvin is also an assistant varsity basketball coach at the high school helping the young men develop their skills mentally and physically. In addition, Calvin also shadows Dr. Neal, pediatrician, here in the children's clinic preparing for a future career in pediatrics.

Nothing strengthens the bonds of an organization like working together to reach out to the community. Summer time will bring the return of last year's successful and popular programs, like the student symposium, student picnic, and breakfast seminars. Be on the lookout for the holiday card from the SA execs, and check out the new website, which will be ready for viewing early next year: www.sa.lanl.gov. For any students who are itching to have their input heard right away, the Student Programs Advisory Committee is looking for both undergraduate and graduate members-at-large for short and long appointments.



Kim Tait, Chair

Is a Graduate Student in LANSCE-LC, in her fourth year of her Doctorate at the University of Arizona. She has been a year-round graduate student for most of that time at LANSCE-LC, working on her dissertation at the Neutron Facility at LANSCE. She graduated from the University of Manitoba (Canada) (BSc Honors and MSc) prior to moving to the United States. When not working on school, she can be found at the hockey rink in Santa Fe or Los Alamos; she coaches the ATOMS hockey program (an initiation program for kids aged 3-12), plays on a women's team in Santa Fe and referees games in Los Alamos.



Oana Marina, Treasurer

Is a Graduate student in MST-11 and P-21, on her second year of her PhD degree in Chemical Engineering at UNM, Albuquerque, working on her dissertation. Oana is married and has a one year-old baby, Alex, who takes up a good amount of her time.

SA GOALS Raea Hicks

The Students' Association has some great goals this year. The newly-assembled executive committee met for the first time and decided to revamp some things on the administrative side, such as the bylaws and website. We also decided to increase the number of year-round activities for those who are working on their degrees during the school year at LANL, such as free movie night in conjunction with UNM-LA, and some community service activities.



The Students' Association



NEW SA WEBSITE COMING SOON!!!

Here Ye Here Ye! Be on the look out for the new, improved, Los Alamos National Laboratory Students' Association web page. Diana Jackson along with myself, Calvin Spellmon Jr., are working together in order to create an up to date web page that will prove to be even more beneficial to incoming students. While Diana is the brains behind this operation, I am providing the creative juices needed to liven up this page. Some of the new attractions to look forward to include: a photo gallery, online submissions and management for the Housing Connection, a new logo that will incorporate the motto of the Students' Association, "By Students, For Students," and also a page that honors past SA elected chair officials. Updated information on this web site will feature a new layout that allows students to view each link on the page more smoothly.

Currently, Diana has made some outstanding changes including linking all the pages together to make the site easy to navigate. Some of these pages include accomplishments of past and current students, and a meet the officers page in which students know exactly who to get in contact with if they have any questions. In addition, students will be able to find out a little about each one of us, and also our positions in case one day they want to hold an office.

Finally, one of the most important reasons for this new web site is because the National Lab here thrives on talented students making a difference. With this new web page it will make travel arrangements, housing assignments, and job opportunities more accessible to qualified students. More importantly, it will be a networking tool for exciting trips, meeting other students, events, and other interesting locations here in Northern New Mexico.

Poverty in Los Alamos? Who knew?

By: Kim Tait



The SA Executive Board was tossing around some ideas for a Holiday Event. One idea that we all liked was to give something back to the community, so I called around to a few local organizations to see what the need was. I first found out that the DP Road Food Bank had closed their doors recently, so with a little more digging around I came across the LA Cares phone number, a food distributor in town for low and no income families, and called Lesley Olsner, the case manager. She was more than willing to give me a rundown of their organization and of the poverty situation in Los Alamos, in which admittedly, I was not aware of.

LA Cares is a non-profit organization that survives on public donations and volunteers that donate their time to the cause. They don't even have an office; they rely on local churches for food distribution. They provide somewhere between 55 to 70 boxes of food to hungry people in Los Alamos every month; these people range from single parents with large families, elderly on social security and homeless people. The food boxes are distributed on the second Friday of each month, and then the volunteers assemble the boxes the night before.

Representing the Students' Association, I got the opportunity to go down to their distribution at the Lutheran Church on Dec 9th to drop some items off that we donated and helped with the food distribution. I do have to say that I was really moved by the experience- the volunteers were so friendly, and Lesley sincerely cared about the individuals coming in. I don't think it would be prudent to speak about their individual situations, but I have been reminded that not everyone in town has the opportunity to work at the Lab, that this IS an expensive town to live in and sometimes life situations put people in positions where they need a helping hand, even in Los Alamos.

Some of the items that they are interested in are: shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, razors, toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags, soap, laundry detergent, bleach, dog/cat food, low sugar fruit (for diabetics), instant coffee. If you have any interest in finding out more about LA Cares, or if you would like to help out and/or donate items, you can contact Lesley at 661-8015, or myself.

The 55th Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students

Denise K. Pauler

Last summer I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet Nobel Laureates and students from around the world to discuss science in Lindau, Germany. Sara Breitzman and I represented Los Alamos National Laboratory at the meeting, which had Laureates in chemistry, physics, and medicine and physiology. In addition to hearing lectures, we had the possibility to interact with the Laureates during several social occasions.



Round Table Discussion

Before the trip to Lindau, the American delegation, which consisted of about 60 students, met in Washington DC for an orientation at the Department of Energy. During the orientation, we learned more about the background of the Nobel prizes and were given information about traveling abroad for those who have not had that opportunity before. The orientation also gave the American students a chance to get to know each other before the actual meeting. From Washington DC, we traveled as a group to Munich and then took a bus to Lindau, which is an island on Lake Constance in southern Germany.

The meeting began with an opening ceremony for all of the students and Laureates. We were greeted by the mayor of Lindau and members of the Bernadotte family, the hosts and organizers of the meeting. After the opening ceremony, the American delegation held a reception for the other student participants. The Nobel lectures were held each morning and typically included round table discussions on topics such as the energy crisis. In the afternoons, approximately five talks were scheduled at the same time for two hours so that the students could attend the topic that interests them and so that these lectures would be less formal and allow for more interaction between the students and Laureates.

Throughout the week, our organizers scheduled lunches with other international delegations, such as the Czechs, Russians, and Japanese to learn about their culture. In addition, they scheduled lunch and dinner with a few Nobel Laureates so that each of us would have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the Laureates. The meeting also included a banquet where I was able to have dinner with Richard Ernst, a Nobel Laureate in chemistry. During the evening he showed me pictures of when he found out he won the Nobel Prize (he found out on an airplane) as well as some pictures of Tibetan art, his hobby.



Richard Ernst and Denise Pauler at the banquet.



Mainau, the garden island and location of the closing ceremonies.

On the last day, we were taken by boat to the island of Mainau for the closing ceremonies. We were able to tour the island and its

beautiful gardens before heading back to Munich. It was an incredible experience that revitalized my interest in science. I was grateful for being part of a discussion about science with Laureates who were well established in their area of interest and students who are starting their careers. Along the way, I met some great friends.

I would highly encourage students at the lab to apply for this opportunity.

The process begins in January. Information on last summer's meeting can be found at www.ornl.gov/lindau2005. The 56th Conference will be held June 25-30, 2006. An Official nomination call will go out in early January. The criteria and guidelines can be found at <http://www2.ornl.gov/LindauNomination/nomination.aspx>. Please contact Carole Rutten at crutten@lanl.gov for more information.

SPAC SEEKS MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

The Student Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC) is pleased to announce the 2006 call for nominations. An advocate for LANL students, SPAC provides oversight of student programs, and recommends policy changes and initiatives for improvement in student programs to ensure a quality experience for all students. Students are essential in developing the workforce of the future, and it is important that their experience at LANL be educational, rewarding, and inspiring. Committee meetings are held weekly during the summer months and twice a month during the rest of the year, totaling approximately 5% of a member's time. The member's organization funds this time spent on SPAC activities.

We are currently seeking nominations for the following:

- Members-at-large for appointments lasting a maximum of three years
- UGS students in active status for 1 year minimum (appointment is for at least 1 year)
- GRA students in active status for 1 year minimum (appointment is for at least 1 year)
- Short-term UGS or GRA student (appointment is less than 1 year)

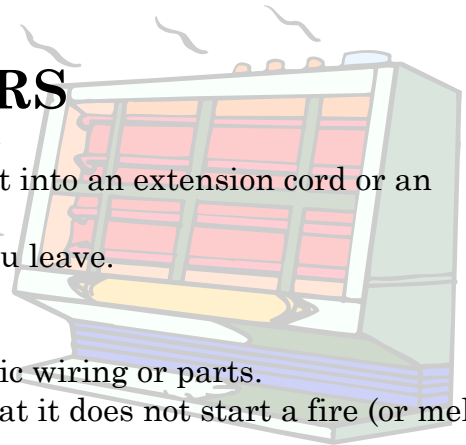
Send nominations to SPAC Chair, Alexis Lavine, MS D462 or e-mail alavine@lanl.gov by COB January 12, 2006.

SAFETY WATCH:

SPACE HEATERS

- 1) A space heater must be plugged directly into the wall (not into an extension cord or an outlet strip, or a UPS!).
- 2) Never run a space heater unattended; turn it off when you leave.
- 3) Never run a space heater within 6' of a source of water.
- 4) Do not run a space heater at its highest setting.
- 5) Please make sure the space heater is not pointed at plastic wiring or parts.
- 6) Ensure there is clearance around your space heater so that it does not start a fire (or melt the plastic garbage bag liners).
- 7) Your space heater needs to be NRTL listed!!!
- 8) Do not plug two heaters into the same outlet, and it is best not to have two in the same office, since they may be on the same circuit.
- 9) Do not place bare feet on the front surface of the heater.

Space heaters draw a lot of current when operating and are best plugged into an outlet that is not already burdened with a heavy load. If you notice that you have tripped a circuit breaker please contact an ESO to reset it for you.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

